

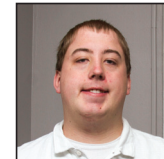



















































PICK ‘EM

WEEK 2

The crew lines up to pick the winners and losers of the week

Follow us at @sportscollegian

<div><div><div>PICK 'EM</div><div>WEEK 2</div><div>The crew lines up to pick the winners and losers of the week</div><div>Follow us at @sportscollegian</div></div></div>	<div><div><div></div><div>Tate Steinlage</div><div>@SteinlageT</div><div>Sports Editor</div><div>3-2</div></div></div>	<div><div><div></div><div>Emilio Rivera</div><div>@lwslk_emilioooo</div><div>Staff Writer</div><div>4-1</div></div></div>	<div><div><div></div><div>Timothy Everson</div><div>@iamtimeverson</div><div>Staff Writer</div><div>4-1</div></div></div>	<div><div><div></div><div>Som Kandlur</div><div>@Som_kan</div><div>Managing Editor</div><div>3-2</div></div></div>	<div><div><div></div><div>D. Scott Fritchen</div><div>@DScottFritchen</div><div>Writer, GoPowercat.com</div><div>4-1</div></div></div>	<div><div><div></div><div>Brett Regan</div><div>@brettreagan</div><div>Writer, GoPowercat.com</div><div>4-1</div></div></div>	<div><div><div></div><div>Wyatt Thompson</div><div></div><div>Voice of the Wildcats</div><div>2-3</div></div></div>
<div><div><div> @ </div><div>West Virginia</div><div>K-State</div></div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div><div></div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
<div><div><div> @ </div><div>Baylor</div><div>Oklahoma State</div></div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
<div><div><div> @ </div><div>Duke</div><div>Notre Dame</div></div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
<div><div><div> @ </div><div>Nebraska</div><div>Michigan</div></div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
<div><div><div> @ </div><div>Indiana</div><div>Purdue</div></div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>

ANTHONY GORMAN

Financial Advisor

• Personal & Business Financial Planning

• Retirement Planning

• Mutual Funds

• Education Funding

• Insurance Planning

• Estate Planning

Insurance products are offered through insurance companies with which Waddell & Reed has sales arrangements.

WADDELL & REED

Financial Advisors™

Investing. With a plan.®

Waddell & Reed, Inc. Member SIPC

555 POYNTZ AVE

SUITE 280, COLONY SQ

MANHATTAN, KS 66502

785-537-4505

DIRECT: 785-560-7000

Heartland

O & P

Full orthotic and prosthetic services.

785-320-2320 Mon. -Thu. 8:30am -5:00pm  
Fri. 8:30am-4:00pm

Let us help you LOVE your skin

Take care of unwanted:

Acne • Rashes • Warts • Moles

Advanced Dermatology & Skin Cancer Center, P.A.

1133 College Ave., Suite E230

Manhattan Medical Center

785-537-4990

www.ksderm.com at College & Claflin, Building E

Get more BANG for your BUCK!

Grand Ol' Trunk

thrft shop & bookstore

785.537.2273 1304 Pillsbury Dr.

HOME OF THE MVP, THE ULTIMATE HAIRCUT EXPERIENCE!

Sport Clips

HAIRCUTS

IT'S GOOD TO BE A GUY

SPORTS ON TV • GUY-SMART STYLISTS

OPEN EVERY DAY • NO APPOINTMENTS

Manhattan Marketplace

Bluemont and Tuttle Creek Blvd.

Next to Noodles, behind Olive Garden

785.340.5547

Sport Clips

HAIRCUTS

\$12

Varsity Haircut

for New Clients

Reg. Varsity Price: \$17 • Reg. Jr. Varsity (10 & Under) Price: \$12. Not valid with any other offer. Coupon may not be bartered, copied, traded or sold. Valid only at Manhattan Marketplace Location.

EXPIRES 5/31/15 • CODE 2202

Sport Clips

HAIRCUTS

20% off

Retail Products,

featuring

Paul Mitchell and American Crew

Not valid with any other offer. Coupon may not be bartered, copied, traded or sold. Valid only at Manhattan Marketplace Location.

EXPIRES 5/31/15 • CODE 2204

SPORTCLIPS.COM

FACEBOOK.COM/SPORTCLIPSHAIRCUTS

TWITTER.COM/SPORTCLIPS

Religion Directory every Friday.

VOL. 120 NO. 80

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2015

thecollegian

TIPOFFGUIDE

VS

K-STATE VS. NO. 17 WEST VIRGINIA

6 PM • TUESDAY, JAN. 27

BRAMLAGE COLISEUM • ESPN2

QUICK STATS

KSU

WVU

POINTS PER GAME

REBOUNDS PER GAME

STEALS PER GAME

65.7

77.7

31.2

38.6

6.15

12.93

TOP SCORING PLAYERS

2

Marcus Foster

13.7 PPG

11

Nino Williams

12.0 PPG

42

Thomas Gipson

11.2 PPG

3

Juwan Staten

15.2 PPG

5

Devin Williams

11.2 PPG

1

Jonathan Holton

9.9 PPG

@sportscollegian

K-State looks to contain Staten and crafty Mountaineers defense

By TIMOTHY EVERSON  
THE COLLEGIAN

Bob Huggins and West Virginia (16-3, 4-2) will make the trip back west to take on K-State (13-8, 5-2) after a crazy Big 12 overtime win against TCU.

"It made them in a better mood yesterday," Huggins said in the Big 12 teleconference. "But this is a hard league, a hard, hard league. You can't get too full of yourself and you can't get too far down. If you get too far down you get buried and if you get too full of yourself you get knocked off. We try to preach even keel. I don't think this group has suffered from a lack of confidence. Obviously, we're not any different from anyone else. We have a lot of things we need to get better at. I don't think confidence has been an issue."

The Mountaineers has been one of the many surprises in the Big 12 season. Picked in the bottom half of the Big 12 in the preseason poll, Huggins and his team have hitched their wagon to great defense and stud senior point guard and Big 12 preseason player of the year Juwan Staten.

Staten, one of the top four scores in the league, shined against the Horned Frogs tallying 18 points and 14 assists after scoring a season low three points and zero assist in their blowout loss against Texas.

"He's healthy. I think that's the biggest thing," Huggins said. "He played through some stuff. He played through some stuff at Texas Tech. You know, he lost some weight. I think he's just getting back to the point where he's healthy and bouncy again. It's hard to make shots when you don't have that bounce. But, he's the engine that drives the train so we need him to play well."

Aside from Staten, one of West Virginia's biggest weapons is how adept they are in forcing turnovers.

The Mountaineers are number one in the Big 12 in turnover margin with +9.95. The closest behind them, Iowa State with +2.11.

The Wildcats, however, are eighth with a -.063 turnover margin.

"You're going to turn it over against them, everyone turns it over against them," K-State head coach Bruce Weber said. "I think it's around 20 turnovers they cause a game. TCU had the game won in regulation and I still think they had 19 or 20 turnovers. I think the key will not be multiple (turnovers), 3 or 4 in a row. (Huggins) has this team playing so hard. They just keep coming at you whether it's full court or half court. And, you know it's their style. The other thing is once you turn it over, get back on defense and make sure you limit their easy, easy looks and make them earn points."

On the other side of the ball, K-State is coming off one of their best performances of the year in their vengeance style win over Oklahoma State at home.

The game included the Wildcats patented suffocating defense and a monster game by senior forward Nino Williams who had 20 points and 7 rebounds on the night.

Weber has been happy with

PARKER ROBB | THE COLLEGIAN

West Virginia senior guard Juwan Staten dribbles around sophomore guard Jevon Thomas in K-State's victory over the Mountaineers January 18, 2014.

what he's seen over the past several weeks but thinks that the game against West Virginia and Saturday's road game at Kansas will tell the tale of how good this Kansas State team is.

"I think we'll know a little bit more about where we sit and how we play after this week," Weber said. "Since the first Oklahoma State game I thought we played really good basketball. We've guarded, we've gotten good high percentage (shots). You could have given us a "A" if we would've found a way to beat Iowa State. But this is a huge week. We have two rated teams. Obviously protecting home court is very important to us. West Virginia has got to be our sole focus and we'll see if we can grind out a win against them and then go to the next one."

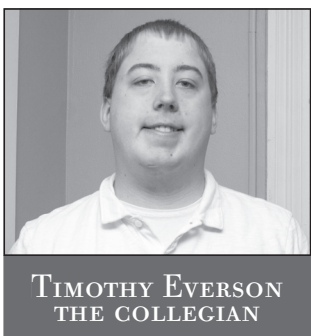
The Mountaineers will be the fifth ranked team the Wildcats have played this season and the fourth in a little over two weeks.

Both K-State and West Virginia are jockeying for second place in the conference behind Kansas.

Tipoff is set for 6:00 p.m. in Bramlage Coliseum.



## You don't have to like him, but Weber deserves K-State fans' respect



Let's start this off with saying that this column should not be necessary.

However, in a world where people let their sad, selfish vendettas get in the way of seeing the truth of the situation, it unfortunately is.

K-State head basketball coach Bruce Weber doesn't need people to come to his defense. Not because he can't defend himself, but, because until further notice, he shouldn't have to.

But, needless to say, the noise no less than three weeks ago was deafening; echoing from the mouths of a intentionally ignorant, vocal minority.

FIRE BRUCE WEBER!!!! #BURNITDOWN

That was (and for most still is) their shrill battle cry.

Sure, there was a large amount of uneasiness centered around what was admittedly a disaster of a non-conference season.

It's reasonable, though incredibly short-sighted, that people could have endured the Tennessee, Georgia, and Texas Southern losses and panicked. It was dark times.

However, the main detractors of Weber did not just appear when things went south earlier in the season.

Nope, they were there the day Frank Martin left for South Carolina. They were there when John Currie announced Weber as the new head coach. They were there when K-State celebrated their first Big 12 championship in the history of the Big 12.

They were there, chomping

at the bit, like sharks waiting for just a small bit of chum thrown their way so they could feast.

It's absolutely sickening. Truth is, no one can force anyone to like anyone. Nor should they.

However, like or dislike, what does Bruce Weber have to do to earn just a sliver of some of these wayward "K-State" fans respect?

Weber won the 2013 Big 12 regular season title. This is a fact.

"But he did it with Frank's players!"

You'll get this fun catch phrase and more when talking about Weber's greatest achievement in his three season here so far.

This is how deep the delusion is.

Instead of actually feeling pride for a real accomplishment for the program, Weber haters would rather tear it down brick by brick then possibly admit that they might have been too hasty with the torches and pitchforks.

Tons of coaches inherit players that they didn't recruit. Coaches, believe it or not, still have to coach and people who know what there talking about agree that Weber is quite the coach.

Big 12 coaches from Kansas's Bill Self (Weber predecessor at Illinois) to Oklahoma coach and former K-State player and coach Lon Kruger and all of the coaches in between continue to have nothing but great things to say about the Wildcat's head coach.

When Weber was fired from Illinois in 2012, it sent shockwaves through the Big 10 and the country.

No coach was more outspoken on Weber's dismissal then Michigan State head coach Tom Izzo.

"I feel worse for Bruce because we lost a good soldier," Izzo said in a press conference in March of 2012. "And yeah, friendship is some of it, but it's not all of it. We lost a good coach. We got a coach that beat

me and my team more often than not, and I just – I can't figure that out."

Frankly, the man is revered around the country as a guy who does things the right way and wins.

He won at Southern Illinois which led him to winning at Illinois including a National Title game appearance.

Are Weber haters prepared to call Tom Izzo a liar? Are the Weber haters prepared to declare to the world that they are a better basketball mind then Tom Izzo or any of the other countless coaches who have spoken favorably of him?

The quote above was just one in a entire rant directed at Illinois after a Big 10 tournament game.

Where is Illinois now?

Where is K-State now? Illinois is 10th in a Big 10 conference that is top heavy but fairly mediocre and went to the NIT and lost in the second round last year. K-State, second in a extremely competitive Big 12, lost in the first round of the NCAA tournament to the eventual National Runner-Up in Kentucky.

There is no arguing with insanity. The writing is on the wall. Stats can be quoted and points can be proved time and time again but that only wastes time and precious breathe.

There is no arguing with people who have made refrigerator magnets (they exist folks, no lie) dedicated to their misguided, borderline sociopathic cause.

If you don't like Bruce Weber, fine. But there is no way you can look at what he's done at his two and a half years at K-State and not call him a success.

If it bothers people that much, then they should find a different team to root for.

Bruce Weber wins. Period. Last time anyone checked, that's a good thing.

**Timothy Everson is a sophomore in mass communications. Send comments to [sports@kstatecollegian.com](mailto:sports@kstatecollegian.com).**



PARKER ROBB | THE COLLEGIAN

Senior forward **Nino Williams** nails a jumper in the second half of the Wildcats' 63-53 defeat of the Cowboys January 24, 2015, in Bramlage Coliseum.

ward puts up shots for 20 or 30 minutes before practices and then spends time after working on his form.

With Marcus Foster and Thomas Gipson garnering most of the attention from opposing defenses, Williams has been able to see that practice time come to fruition on the court in Big 12 play.

"I'm a little older now," Williams said. "I understand ways of scoring and the spot where I'm going to score in. Playing with Marcus (Foster) and Thomas (Gipson), they usually key in on one or the other so I just get the open looks sometime. They find me most of the time."

And most of the time, Williams hits the shot. The St. Louis, Missouri native is averaging 12 points per game this season, including 20 a game over the last three games. He has been the key figure in K-State's turnaround from a 7-6 nonconference season, and will be a fix-

ture in K-State's potential run at a NCAA Tournament berth.

Slowly but surely, Williams is also looking like an All-Big 12 candidate.

"The way he (Williams) is playing right now is as good as anybody," Ford said. "You base it on the last three or four games, you just look at the numbers and they speak for itself. He's leading his team to some wins – that's always important."

Tuesday, K-State (12-8, 5-2) will welcome No. 17 West Virginia (16-3, 4-2) into Bramlage Coliseum with the second spot in the conference standings up for grab.

Marcus Foster and West Virginia's Juwan Staten will be the talking points prior to tipoff, but it's Nino Williams' mid-range game that will likely make all the difference. The unconventional, forgotten shot in the college basketball that Williams thrives upon.

"I'm pretty confident in it," he said.

## TIPOFF: K-State vs. West Virginia



Jan. 27 has probably been scribbled out on West Virginia's calendar. Earlier this month, this matchup was a one-sided affair, one you would pencil down as a win. Since then, however, K-State has rattled off five conference wins and now faces the No. 3-ranked team in the conference as one of the two teams positioned in front of them.

That being said, here's who now has the advantage and how the two teams match up:

### Front court: K-State

The Wildcats have struggled rebounding the ball this season and West Virginia has a considerable edge on the boards. Naturally, one would think the Mountaineers are favorites in the front court, especially with a scorer like senior Jonathan Holton, who (as a senior) is averaging 9.9 points and 6.3 rebounds per game.

Nino Williams has changed all of that. The senior forward has been a pillar for K-State all season, and the past two weeks he's looked like one of the conference's best players.

Williams has hit the 20-point mark in his last two games. His midrange game is among the best in the country, and his ability to extend defenses is unrivaled in the Big 12.

West Virginia will be forced to key on Williams. He's simply too talented to leave unguarded between 10-15 feet from the basket. That should open the door for senior Thomas Gipson to have a big game underneath and sophomore Marcus Foster on the outside.

**Back court: West Virginia**  
If you had to find a word to

describe the Mountaineers' back court, it would be "pesky." Head coach Bob Huggins' bench is 10-deep and for good reason: all contribute.

West Virginia is averaging almost 13 steals per game, and surprisingly, no one player is averaging more than 2.1 a contest. Similarly, the Mountaineers are averaging 15 assists per game, but only star senior guard Juwan Staten is averaging more than two a game.

With a batch of contributors, Huggins has the players to go to. He's also blessed with a player like Staten on his team, who ranks fourth in the conference with 15.2 points per game.

K-State has struggled at the point guard position at times this season. The team has also been lackadaisical with handling the ball. With the ability to score, steal and assist the ball, West Virginia has the upper hand in the back court.

### K-State X-Factor: Justin Edwards

Edwards needed time. The Big 12 is a beast of its own. The junior also needed to take the pressure off himself. "Let the game come to me," in his own words.

With seven conference games under his belt and some confidence, Edwards is beginning to showcase why he was so highly touted out of Maine as a transfer. In K-State's last five games, the Ontario native is averaging 9.6 points per game. Yes, he's shooting the ball better from the outside, but more importantly, he's driving hard to the basket and adding an entirely new dimension to the K-State offense.

Edwards will need to do much of the same against the Mountaineers if K-State hopes to knock off yet another ranked Big 12 opponent. And with the focus on Foster, Gipson, and, now, Williams, Edwards will have the opportunities and space to contribute.

### West Virginia X-Factor: Dexter Miles Jr.

In West Virginia's last two losses, freshman Miles has totaled just three points on 1-8 shooting. The freshman returned to form Saturday in the Mountaineer's over-



FIRSTNAME LASTNAME | THE COLLEGIAN

Junior guard **Justin Edwards** gets a look at the basket as he tries to dribble around Oklahoma State forward **Mitchell Solomon** in the second half of the Wildcats' 63-53 defeat of the Cowboys January 24, 2015, in Bramlage Coliseum.

time win against TCU, tallying 10 points. But 7 points in the three games prior is alarming for a starter who isn't known for assisting the ball.

If Miles is able to get going, West Virginia can be overwhelming on the offensive end with Staten and Holton regularly scoring in double-digits. But K-State's

defense has been excellent defensively, limiting teams to production only from their stars.

On the road in the Big 12, West Virginia will need more from players like Miles if the team wishes to leave Bramlage Coliseum with another conference road win.

### Matchup to watch: Foster vs. Staten

The two can score at will, but which one can best the other on the defensive end with the game on the line?

**Tate Steidl is a junior in mass communications. Please send all comments to [sports@kstatecollegian.com](mailto:sports@kstatecollegian.com)**

## Power Ranking: Top 10 Big 12 players to look out for this week

By EMILIO RIVERA  
THE COLLEGIAN

### 1. Junior Georges Niang — Forward — Iowa State

The leader of the most prolific offense in the Big 12, Niang has enough skill around the basket to pace a team loaded with scorers. Averaging 14.6 points per game, the junior has managed to lead the Cyclones in points, while also being able to muscle up and grab rebounds.

### 2. Junior Perry Ellis — Forward — Kansas

The Wichita, Kansas native has been making his name known for the second-straight season, leading the Jayhawks in both points and rebounds. Ellis — who was once seemingly lost in the Kansas system because of the talent around him — has made himself the person who has to have the ball.

Without Ellis' presence in the paint — his ability to

rebound the ball and get off second-chance shots on the offensive end, while being one of the anchors on the defensive side — Kansas would be less effective down low.

### 3. Sophomore Marcus Foster — Guard — K-State

Ever since his debacle in Stillwater, Foster has looked every bit the star that the Wildcats need him to be to be competitive in the Big 12. Averaging 13.7 points per game, Foster gives his team a needed bonus in his ability to both get to the basket and shoot from behind the arc.

With 49 3-point shots so far on the season, it is easy to see why Foster scores as many points as he does. His percentage from behind the arc (41 percent) is one of the best in the country.

### 4. Junior Phil Forte III — Guard — Oklahoma State

When one talks about lethal Big 12 scorers, Forte has to

be on the list. The junior simply knows how to get points in anyway that he can. Two of Forte's intangibles propel him to success: his ability to shoot the three, ranking third in the conference with 2.63 makes per game; and his ability to get to the free-throw line and knock down shots, with 86-makes on the season.

### 5. Sophomore Frank Mason III — Guard — Kansas

The oft-forgotten point guard for the Jayhawks, while standing only 5-foot-11, is another key aspect of the Jayhawks' success this far this season. Maybe even the most important. Mason has enough talent, paired with a knowledge of the game, to find the best option on the offensive side for his team.

Averaging 12.7 points per game, Mason isn't a slouch in scoring himself. He is also known to be able to find the ball after a shot, leading to him putting up decent numbers in the rebounding game.

### 6. Freshman Myles Turner — Forward — Texas

While 11.6 points per game isn't spectacular in a conference like the Big 12, Turner's ability down low makes him a true star in the conference. With 6.8 rebounds per game, the freshman has shown that he can power the ball away from most of the conference's more experienced big men.

The thing that sets Turner apart from other players at his position, though, is his ability to get to the charity strip and, more importantly, take advantage with his free shots. Shooting 88 percent from the free-throw line, Turner has special ability as a big man to shoot that shot.

### 7. Senior Le'Bryan Nash — Guard/Forward — Oklahoma State

With a team-leading 5.8 rebounds per game, the Cowboys' swing man is a pivotal piece of their offense. Nash has the ability to score anywhere

near the basket, averaging 17.3 points per game. Additionally, his ability to score in opposite to Forte helps the Cowboys click.

### 8. Junior Buddy Hield — Guard — Oklahoma

Hield, the Sooner's offense, is the conference's top scorer, averaging 17.8 points per game. He can score from any spot on the court, whether it's a 3-pointer or driving towards the basket. Hield knows how to get the job done for his team.

### 9. Senior Juwan Staten — Guard — West Virginia

Though the Mountaineers flew under the radar to start the season, Staten's game has lifted

them so far in Big 12 play. Averaging 15.2 points per game, Staten is a true scoring threat in the conference. Not only can he score, he can also dish out points to his teammates, averaging 4.4 assists per game. Without Staten, the Mountaineers would lose their only true scoring threat.

### 10. Senior Nino Williams — Forward — K-State

Just edging into the conference's top 10 is the Wildcats' hot-handed shooter. Williams ability to shoot the baseline jumper cannot be underrated in a college basketball world where that shot is rarely seen anymore. Williams is shooting an impressive 53.9 percent from the field so far this season.

GET 25% OFF!

all salon services for college students\*  
CALL TODAY!  
785.776.4794 | [marinello.com](http://marinello.com)  
MANHATTAN CAMPUS

\*valid student identification from an education institution must be provided in order to be eligible for Student Offer. Promotions are valid through 5/31/2015, at participating campuses. All services are performed by students under the supervision of an instructor. Price determined by consultation. One ad offer may be applied per visit.

Send in a Letter to the Editor to make your voice heard.

[collegian@kstatecollegian.com](mailto:collegian@kstatecollegian.com)

We want to hear it.

the collegian

COME VISIT!

Cheer your team on with K-State accessories; we have over 30 shops in just 1 stop!

Check out some of our other products:

- Repurposed and used furniture
- Home Decor
- Fabulous Jewelry Selection

2125 Ft. Riley Blvd. | 785-210-9329 | Th-Sat 10am-6pm

Little Caesars

HOT-N-READY PIZZA

LARGE PEPPERONI PIZZA \$5.99 AVAILABLE EVERY DAY

1150 WESTLOOP CENTER MANHATTAN